(b) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has drawn up a scheme to get swimming pools and gymnasia constructed in Kendriya Vidyalayas by private parties on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Under the scheme, private parties are provided a specified area of land in the Vidyalaya premises for a specified period. At the end of the concession period, the assets get automatically transferred to the KVS. The party concerned constructs, maintains and operates the swimming pool and gymnasium with its own funds. During school hours, KV students are allowed to use the swimming pool and gymnasium free of cost. Beyond school hours, the party is free to use the facilities commercially.

(c) and (d) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan being an autonomous body, the scheme has been approved by the Board of Governors of the Sangathan. The scheme provides opportunities for these additional facilities to the students of KVS without any financial burden on Government exchequer.

(e) The private operators are required to provide the necessary life guard and coach for the safety of the children.

Setting up of Open Universities and television channel for higher education

3809. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI :

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in an effort to balance the drive for greater enrolment at the college and university level with limited financial resources Government are planning ways to promote distance education and Open Universities;

(b) if so, whether it has been proposed that during the Tenth Plan period, every State should set up atleast one Open University;

(c) whether there are also plans for a dedicated television channel for general higher education;

(d) if so, the number of total colleges and universities set up during the Ninth Plan; and

(e) to what extent, they will be increasing during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) The Government has been encouraging growth of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system in the country and during the Tenth Plan period it is proposed to increase the enrolment in the ODL system to the extent of 40% from the existing 20% in the Higher Education Sector. While in the Ninth Plan period, there were ten Open Universities, including Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), and 64 Correspondence Courses Institutes (CCIs), in the Tenth Plan 8 new State Open Universities are envisaged and 35 new CCIs of the conventional Universities would be brought under the ODL system.

The Government has established a 24 hours dedicated educational T.V. Channel, Gyan Darshan for higher education through ODL system. Recently, on 26th January, 2003 another Channel Eklavya Channel dedicated for technical education has been launched.

Alternative arrangement for demolished school buildings

†3810. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kendriya Vidyalaya's building at Sardar Patel Road has been demolished;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the arrangements made for studies of about 800 students who were studying in the said school; and

(c) whether regular classes are being held immediately after the beginning of the session, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Kendriya Vidyalaya, Sardar Patel Road was being

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.